

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09999 141320Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 OES-07 USIE-00 ERDA-05 MC-02
NRC-05 INT-05 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ERDE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 JUSE-00 /109 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4717
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

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E.O 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, TECH
SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY

REF: NEW DELHI 9924

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM ACCOUNT OF SIGNIFICANT REPLIES GIVEN
BY PRIME MINISTER DESAI TO QUESTIONS RAISED DURING THE JULY 13
LOK SABHA DISCUSSION OF TARAPUR FUEL SUPPLY.

2. IN ANSWER TO FORMAL SHORT NOTICE QUESTION (WHICH TRIG-
GERED DISCUSSION) IN WHICH MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, VIZ.
PM, WAS ASKED TO STATE (A) WHETHER THE USG RECENTLY AGREED
TO RESUME SUPPLY ENRICHED URANIUM TO TARAPUR AND (B) IF
SO, UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS.

REPLY: "THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, ON JUNE 28,
1977, DIRECTED THE ISSUANCE OF THE PENDING EXPORT LICENSE
XSNM-845 AUTHORIZING THE SHIPMENT OF ENRICHED URANIUM FUELD
FOR THE TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION. THERE IS NO PRE-CONDI-
TION AS SUCH BUT THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT DISCUSSIONS
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WOULD BE HELD BETWEEN U.S.A. AND INDIA ON THE LARGER QUESTION
OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION."

3. IN ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENTARY IN WHICH PM WAS ASKED IF IT
WAS CORRECT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S NEW NUCLEAR POLICY LEAVES
LITTLE DOUBT THAT ALL EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO PERSUADE
INDIA TO OPEN ALL ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES TO INTERNATIONAL

INSPECTION TO PREVENT IT FROM RE-PROCESSING SPENT FUEL DERIVED FROM WHATEVER SOURCE AND IF THERE WAS A CONDITION LIKE THIS IN THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOI AND USG.

REPLY: "THERE IS NO SUCH CONDITION. IF THERE IS A CONDITION, I WILL NEVER AGREE TO IT."

4. IN ANSWER TO A SUPPLEMENTARY ASKING WHETHER THE USG HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO REWRITE THE TARAPUR AGREEMENT AND HAS SOUNDED OUT THE GOI THAT THE AGREEMENT BE REWRITTEN SO THAT PEACEFUL EXPLOSIONS BY INDIA WILL BE MADE IMPOSSIBLE IN FUTURE.

REPLY: "IT IS TRUE THAT THE EXPLOSION THAT WAS MADE HERE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES--AS IT WAS CLAIMED-- HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD. AND, THEREFORE, IT CREATED ALL THESE DIFFICULTIES. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ANY OTHER EXPLOSION NOW FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. AND THIS HAS BEEN CLEARED OUT IN OUR TALKS. THEREFORE THIS IS NOT GOING TO ARISE NOW."

5. IN ANSWER TO A LONG QUESTION ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE INDO-US NUCLEAR TALKS:

REPLY: "THAT QUESTION (OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION) IS IMPORTANT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD; AND WE ARE INTERESTED IN IT AS MUCH. THE DIFFICULTY WAS ONLY ABOUT SIGNING A TREATY. WE HAVE NOT SIGNED IT. I SAID THAT AS LONG AS THOSE WHO POS-
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SESS ATOMIC WEAPONS AND GHBBFFPDOING THE EXPLOSIONS DO NOT GIVE THEM UP, WE CANNOT SIGN A TREATY LIKE THAT, WITH THOSE PEOPLE. THEREFORE, THERE IS NO QUESTION; BUT WE ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING THAT PROLIFERATION DOES NOT TAKE PLACE. WE ARE INTERESTED, THEREFORE, THAT THESE POWERFUL COUNTRIES ALSO GIVE UP THIS POLICY; AND IT IS ON THOSE LINES THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TLAKS."

6. ANSWERING AN ACCUSATION THAT HE HAD MADE A STATEMENT IN MAY AGREEING TO INSPECTION OF ALL INDIAN NUCLEAR FACILITIES BY THE US.

REPLY: "I NEVER SAID IT, AND I WILL NEVER AGREE TO ANY INSPECTION BY ANYBODY, UNTIL THEY ALLOW ME TO INSPECT THEIR PLANTS. WE ARE NOT GOING TO ALLOW IT, AND I HAVE SAID THAT."

7. AN MP REFERRED TO THE PM'S EARLIER STATEMENT (PARA 4 ABOVE) IN WHICH HE HAD SAID THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION NOW OF FURTHER PNE, AND ASKED IF THE GOI HAD MADE A NEW COMMITMENT NOT TO RESORT TO A PNE EVEN IF NECESSARY.

REPLY: NO SUCH EXPLOSION IS NECESSARY, IN MY VIEW. IF THE

PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT HAD A DIFFERENT VIEW, IT IS NOT MY FAULT.
THEY WERE WRONG IN SAYING SO."

8. PRESSED BY OPPOSITION LEADER CHAVAN ON THIS, AND ASKED
WHETHER THE GOI HAD "GIVEN UP (PNES) FOR ALL TIME ONLY TO GET
CERTAIN THINGS FROM THE USG."

REPLY: "I AGREE WITH HIM THAT I SHOULD NOT MAKE A COMMIT-
MENT FOR ALL FUTURE TIME. I CANNOT SAY THAT I KNOW EVERYTHING
ABOUT THE FUTURE OR EVEN NOW ANYTHING COMPLETELY, BUT AS FAR
AS I HAVE GONE INTO THE QUESTION, I HAVE COME TO THIS CON-
CLUSION THAT NO EXPLOSION IS NECESSARY FOR A PEACEFUL USE,
FOR USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THAT IS
THE CONCLUSION I HAVE COME TO. THAT IS WHY I SAID THERE WAS
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NO QUESTION OF AN EXPLOSION. BUT, IF ANYTHING IS NECESSARY,
WE CAN DO IT ALWAYS IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER PEOPLE. NOBODY
WILL OBJECT TO IT IF IT IS NECESSARY, IF THEY ARE CONVINCED.
IF I AM CONVINCED, I CAN CONVINCE THEM. IF I REQUIRE YOUR
HELP, I WILL HAVE TO CONVINCING YOU. OTHERWISE, NOBODY WILL
HELP ME."

9. ASKED BY JANATA MP RAM JETHMALANI IF HE COULD TELL THE
HOUSE IF THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN INDIA HELPED TO
PROCURE RESUMPTION OF US SUPPLIES OF NUCLEAR FUEL.

REPLY: "I DO NOT WANT TO ANALYSE THE CAUSES OF UNDERSTAND-
ING. IT IS NO USE COMPLICATING THESE MATTERS FURTHER.
THEREFORE, I DO NOT WANT TO ENTER INTO THIS ARGUMENT."

10. FULL TEXT OF DISCUSSION BEING AIRPOUCHED TO NEA/INS.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NUCLEAR FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, (DESAI, MORARJI)
To: STATE
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